



24 MAR 2006

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In re Application of DONNELLY et al :
U.S. Application No.: 10/523,848 :
PCT Application No.: PCT/GB03/03471 : DECISION
Int. Filing Date: 07 August 2003 :
Priority Date Claimed: 07 August 2002 :
Attorney Docket No.: 5173-0010WOUS :
For: WATER TREATMENT APPARATUS :

This is in response to applicant's "Petition Under 37 C.F.R. 1.47(a)" filed 09 March 2006.

BACKGROUND

On 07 August 2003, applicant filed international application PCT/GB03/03471, which claimed priority of an earlier United Kingdom application filed 07 August 2002. A copy of the international application was communicated to the USPTO from the International Bureau on 19 February 2004. The thirty-month period for paying the basic national fee in the United States expired on 07 February 2005.

On 07 February 2005, applicant filed national stage papers in the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US). The submission was accompanied by, *inter alia*, the basic national fee required by 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1).

On 14 July 2005, the DO/EO/US mailed a Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. 371 (Form PCT/DO/EO/905), which indicated that an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497 must be filed.

On 17 October 2005, applicant filed a petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

On 24 January 2006, this Office mailed a decision dismissing the 17 October 2005 petition.

On 09 March 2006, applicant filed the present renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

DISCUSSION

A petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) must be accompanied by: (1) an oath or declaration by each applicant on his or her own behalf and on behalf of the nonsigning joint inventors, (2) factual proof that the missing joint inventors refuse to join in the application or cannot be reached after diligent effort, (3) the fee set forth in §1.17(i), and (4) the last known addresses of the nonsigning joint inventors.

Petitioner has previously satisfied items (1), (3), and (4) above.

With regard to item (2) above, MPEP 409.03(d) states in relevant part,

Where a refusal to sign the application papers is alleged, the circumstances of this refusal must be specified in an affidavit or declaration by the person to whom the refusal was made. Statements by a party not present when an oral refusal is made will not be accepted.

Before a refusal can be alleged, it must be demonstrated that a bona fide attempt was made to present a copy of the application papers (specification, including claims, drawings, and oath or declaration) to the nonsigning inventor for signature. A copy of the application papers should be sent to the last known address of the nonsigning inventor, or, if the nonsigning inventor is represented by counsel, to the address of the nonsigning inventor's attorney.

When there is an express oral refusal, that fact along with the time and place of the refusal must be stated in the affidavit or declaration. When there is an express written refusal, a copy of the document evidencing that refusal must be made part of the affidavit or declaration.

When it is concluded by the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant that a nonsigning inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in the affidavit or declaration. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the affidavit or declaration, such evidence should be submitted. Whenever a nonsigning inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the affidavit or declaration.

The petition states that joint inventor Vernon Donnelly refuses to sign the application papers. The petition adequately demonstrates that a bona fide attempt was made to present a complete copy of the application papers (including specification, claims, drawings, and oath/declaration) to Donnelly for signature (see affidavit of Richard Getz). Furthermore, the petition sufficiently illustrates that Donnelly refuses to sign. Specifically, Donnelly failed to respond to a letter received at his address on 20 February 2006 within the time period stated therein. Thus, it would be reasonable to conclude at the present time that Donnelly refuses to join in the application.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons above, the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is GRANTED.

The application has an International Filing Date under 35 U.S.C. 363 of 07 August 2003 and a date under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) of 17 October 2005.

As set forth in 37 CFR 1.47(a), a notice of the filing of this application will be forwarded to the nonsigning inventor at the last known address of record and will be published in the *Official Gazette*.

This application is being forwarded to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) for further processing in accordance with this decision.



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In re Application of DONNELLY et al
U.S. Application No.: 10/523,848
PCT Application No.: PCT/GB03/03471
Int. Filing Date: 07 August 2003
Priority Date Claimed: 07 August 2002
For: WATER TREATMENT APPARATUS

Dear Vernon Donnelly:

You are named as a joint inventor in the above-captioned United States national stage application, filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.47(a) and 35 U.S.C. 116. Should a patent be granted, you will be designated as an inventor.

As a named inventor, you are entitled to inspect any paper in the file wrapper of the application, order copies of all or any part thereof (at a prepaid cost set forth in 37 CFR 1.19) or to make your position of record in the application. Alternatively, you may arrange to do any of the preceding through a registered patent agent or attorney presenting written authorization from you. If you choose to join in the application, counsel of record (see below) would presumably assist you. Joining in the application would entail the filing of an appropriate oath or declaration by you pursuant to 37 CFR 1.63.

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